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(which exists less in Scotland than in either England or Ireland,) conceals from us the names of many to whom the loom has proved the first round in the ladder of life. The history and literature of the subject surely deserve to be written; but the present paper,—whatever of suggestion or instruction it may contain,—is only the incidental jottings of one wholly unconnected with the subject. He has thought them worthy of a record, however, not by way of satisfying curiosity, but as a stimulus to the acquirement and contribution of facts.

A. HUME.

THE ROUND TOWERS OF ULSTER.

DRUMLANE TOWER, COUNTY CAVAN.

“Alack, and what would good old Mogue there see,
But empty lodgings and unfurnished walls,
Unpeopled offices, untrodden stones?”

Drumlane (*Druim-leathain*, “the broad ridge,” or “hill,”) is the name of a townland and parish in the barony of Loughtee, and county of Cavan, where are the ruins of a church, and remains of a Round Tower, which are situated near the village of Milltown, and about three miles S.W. of Belturbet. The burning of this place is recorded by the *Four Masters*, as early as the year 1246. Saint Maedhog (“Maidoc,” or “Mogue,”) is the reputed founder of the monastic church here, of which he was considered the patron saint. Dr. Lanigan, however, considers that Colgan errs in making this assertion; and the only connection he finds of the saint’s history with the place is a statement which goes to prove the previous existence of Drumlane; for his parents are represented, after being married some time without issue, as having prayed to God to grant them a son, for which purpose they also gave great alms, and often went to the monastery of *Druim-leathan*, where they used to request the prayers of the holy men who resided there.*

Entries of an early date in the *Annals* are found having reference to a religious house here. For example, the *Four Masters*, in 1025, record the death of Duibhinsi Ua Faircheallaigh [O’Farrelly] abbot of Drumlane; and again, in 1059, the demise of another member, it may be presumed, of the same family, Conaing Ua Faircheallaigh, *airchinneach* of *Druim leathan*, successor of Saint Maedhog, in Connaught, &c. “The O’Farrellys were the hereditary *coarbs* of Saint Mogue, or *Erenachs* of Drumlane till the suppression of the monastery.” A good example is afforded by this sept [natio] of Munster, Farrelly, of the peculiar tenure by which church-lands were held under the early Irish system; but it would be out of place here to do more than make a reference to the information

* Lanigan, vol. 3, p. 333.

afforded by Dr. Reeves in his *Acts of Archbishop Colton*; by Mr. Porter, the translator of that work, in the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*; and perhaps most of all by Mr. King, in his admirable *Memoir Introductory to the Early History of the Primacy of Armagh*.

It may be interesting to collect a few of the other general notices of this place, now obscure, but at one time important in Irish history, which are found in the Annals:—

The age of Christ, 1261, a great depredation was committed by Hugh O'Connor, in Breifny, and he advanced to

Druim-lahan, where a part of his army was defeated, and many of the less distinguished of them were slain.

The age of Christ, 1314, the O'Reillys were defeated at Drumlahan, by Rory, the son of Cathal O'Connor.

The age of Christ, 1343, John MacDuibhne, Archdeacon of Drumlahan, died.

The age of Christ, 1362, Murray O'Farrelly, Coarb of Maidog [i.e., abbot of Drumlane, near Belturbet, Co. Cavan] and Archdeacon of Breifny [i.e. Kilmore, Co. Cavan] died, after a victory over the world and the devil.

The age of Christ, 1369, Murray O'Farrelly, coarb of Saint Maidoc, and Archdeacon of Breifny, died.

The age of Christ, 1391, O'Rorke (Tiernan) with a small body of troops, repaired to Drumlahan, to meet O'Reilly (John);—when the Clann Murtough O'Connor heard of this, they met him, with all their forces, at Belagh-an-Chrionaigh the [road of the withered trees, or brambles] but O'Rorke with his small body of troops defeated them, and made them retreat before him, &c.

This extract is peculiarly interesting in regard to this locality; for it is not difficult to believe that the road now leading to the church and tower is the very passage described in the ancient record.

The age of Christ, 1407, John, the son of Teige O'Rourke, heir to the lordship of Breifny, died in Moyling and was interred in Drumlane.

The age of Christ, 1418, Richard, the son of Thomas O'Reilly, Lord of East Breifny, was drowned in Lough Silcan, [now Lough Sheelin] and with him were also drowned his son, Owen Reilly, Philip, the son of Gilla-Isa, son of Godfrey O'Reilly, Deacon of Drumlane, and Vicar of Eanach-garbh, and many other distinguished persons.

Finola, however, daughter of Mac Rannall, and wife of O'Reilly, escaped by swimming. [The *Annals of Ulster* call O'Reilly King of Breifny, and state that he went in a cot to meet the English.]

The age of Christ, 1490, the Canon MacTiernan, of Drumlane, died.

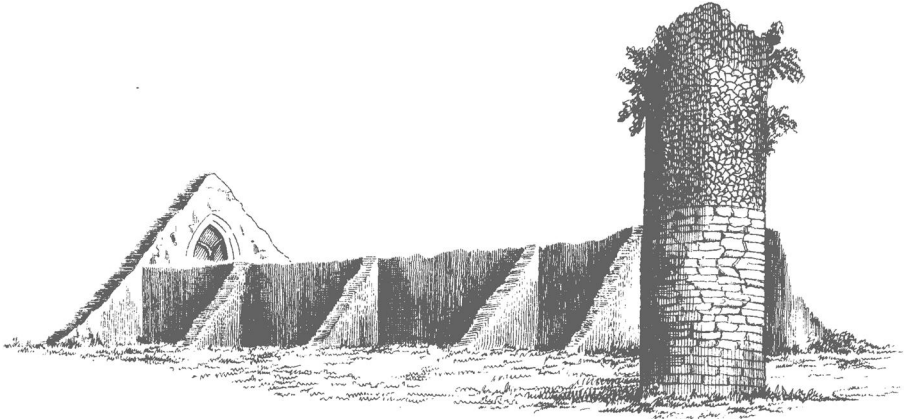
The age of Christ, 1512, Hugh O'Mael-Mocherighe, Coarb of Drumlane, was drowned.

It is not stated whether this "chief of the early rising," as his name is translated by Dr. O'Donovan, was one of the Farrelly family; perhaps he was, as the learned editor just quoted states that "Early" is now the family name representing O'Mulmogherry. In the same year an entry is found of the death of Failghe, the son of MacImora O'Reilly, slain at Drumlane, by some persons of his own name.

The tower at this place was opened by the writer and Mr. Grattan, of Belfast, on the 26th July, 1844; assisted by Mr. O'Reilly, a Roman Catholic clergyman, residing in the vicinity. It stands in the church-yard, close to the ruins of a former parish-church,^b and very near the margin of Lough Oughter, one of the many inland lakes found in this part of the country. According to Colgan, it is situated on the boundary of the two Breifnys. At a short distance are the remains of the monastery already spoken of; and the approach to all these ancient structures is by the road already mentioned, *Belagh-an-Chrionaigh*.

^b It is on the north side; and the church, which is a long building, extends beyond it some distance towards the west.

The *Annals of the Four Masters* use the expression “the great church of Drumlane;” but it seems doubtful whether the remains now standing are those of the building mentioned by them in 1484. It is of considerable length, extending some distance to the east, but much further to the west, of the tower, as shown in the sketch.



It will be observed that the side-walls are strengthened by little buttresses, at short distances apart; and, that the west end, which is tolerably perfect, is constructed in a peculiar manner, but in conformity with the plan adopted in the sides. It consists of a triangle of heavy masonry intersected by the side-walls, so as to cut off a part that corresponds with the buttresses; or perhaps it is more correct to say that the buttresses were constructed to correspond with the projection of the western wall. The reason for giving this great strength to the building is not very apparent. A part of the west window still remains, and fragments of stone mullions. The east end of the church is in ruins; materials having been taken from it for the erection of other buildings. There are small side-windows, one of them exactly opposite the door of the tower, (which faces the church.) It looks towards the south, and is ten feet two inches above the level of the church-yard.

The *Annals of the Four Masters* have an entry, at the age of Christ 1484: the quotation of which has been purposely deferred on account of its connection with this part of the subject.

John O'Farrelly, a canon of the family of Drumlane, and Brien O'Farrelly, a priest, who had commenced building an anchorite's cell at the great church of Drumlane, died.

Persons who have given attention to the discussions respecting Round Towers, will probably recollect that this simple entry has been used as a proof that these buildings were *Anchorite Towers*, and that Dr. Petrie has fully discussed this question in his work. Here it is only necessary to copy the interesting note of Dr. O'Donovan, on the text of the *Annals*:—"Anchorite's cell. (*Cloch Angcoire*, i.e. the stone of the domicile of the recluse. The late Mr. Kennedy, of Killyear, near Drum-

lane, who was maternally descended from the O'Farrelly's, told the Editor, in May 1836, that this *Cloch-Angeoire*, or Anchorite's stone domicile, was a small, low, stone cell, situated near the great church of Drumlane. Harris, in his edition of Ware, states that *Cloch-Angeoire* was the Irish name for the Round Tower of Drumlane; but Mr. Kennedy, who knew the Irish language and the traditions of Drumlane better than Harris, told the Editor that the Round Tower of Drumlane was always called *Cloigtheach* in Irish, and that he always understood that this was the Irish term for *belfry*; and added, that the constant tradition among the O'Farrellys was, that the round steeple at Drumlane was originally built, and always, till about two centuries since, used as a belfry."

The tower, when viewed in connection with the church, as shown in the sketch already given, inclines the observer to consider the opinion, that one object of these buildings was defence, as having some plausibility; and this is confirmed by the very remarkable mode of building adopted in the tower; for the lower part, to the height of twenty-two feet, is constructed of carefully-wrought sandstone, and is equal in execution to the tower of Devenish itself; the stones being fitted to their places with great care. The door-way, which is in this part of the structure, partakes of the same skilful and admirable workmanship; being formed of stones of the full thickness of the walls, which in this part is three feet three inches. Its architrave projects boldly 3 or 4 inches from the general line of the ashlar; and the top, which is arched, is keyed in a workmanlike manner, as shown in the accompanying sketch.

In the upper part of what now remains of this building, a peculiarity of



DOOR OF DRUMLANE TOWER.

construction is observed which deserves to be noticed. After the point already mentioned is reached, a change takes place both in the material and workmanship; the remainder of the tower being built of coarse rubble-work, of the meanest description. As there is no evidence whatever of the lower portion having been repaired or cased at a period subsequent to its erection, there is little doubt that this work, at least what remains of it, now stands as originally erected; another mystery connected with Round Towers. The probable solution is, that the object of the builder was to make the structure a place of defence; and this was fully attained by the plan pursued: for the lower portion would have resisted a degree of violence quite sufficient to destroy the upper part. It may also be noticed that the height of the ashlar-work reaches to about the same elevation as the walls of the church. If the parts had been reversed, the conclusion would have been that the building was the work of different periods; one part exhibiting the first efforts of a rude people, and the other showing unmistakable evidence of an advanced state of architecture.

Of this tower about forty feet only now remain. Its exterior circumference at the base is fifty-two feet; at the same part, the interior diameter is ten feet six inches; and, as already mentioned, the thickness of the wall, measured at the door, is three feet three inches. The entrance itself, which is several feet above the level of the ground, is five feet six inches in height, and two feet wide at the sill, tapering to one foot eight inches-and-a-half at the spring of the arch. Above the door, in the upper part of the tower, a small angular-headed window is observed, the top formed, in the most simple manner, by two pieces of sand-stone inclined towards one another and meeting at the top.

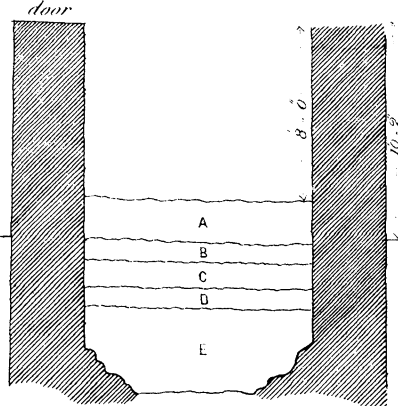
On the north-east part of the exterior of this tower some rude efforts at sculpture are observable, which, if not co-eval with the building, possess some pretensions to antiquity. Of these, two figures in low relief may be mentioned, which are named by the country-people, from the rude resemblance they bear, "the Cock and Hen."

On commencing the examination, the tower was found to be filled, up to within eight feet of the entrance, with a quantity of material which it was necessary to remove. The first two feet in depth consisted of the usual kind of *debris* found in similar buildings; after which about a foot of soft compressible mould, of a reddish-brown colour, not unlike the upper part of a peat moss, was thrown out. This had apparently originated from the decomposition of a quantity of twigs, or small branches of trees. A solid floor of clay was then reached, having distinct traces, over the greater part of its surface, of the sprinkling or coating of lime observed in other towers. In the clay, lying on its side in the north-west quadrant, as shown in the plan, was found the greater part of a human skull.

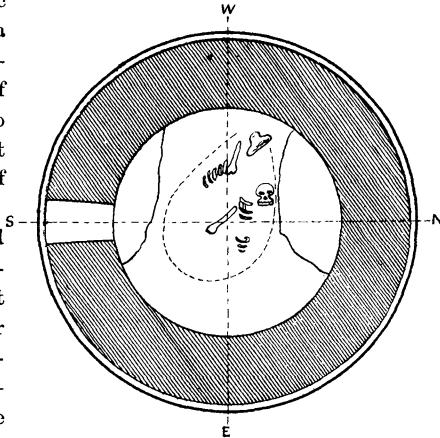
There were also the principal bones of the skeleton scattered through the remainder, but without order or regularity; being, however, chiefly crowded into a central space, as marked by the dotted lines; with these were also found a large portion of the lower jaw of an ox, and fragments of the upper jaw of a deer or goat, and of a dog; great quantities of bones, considered at the time

to be those of oxen; remains of some small birds; fragments of charcoal and unconsumed peat; frequent traces of decomposed wood; and, in two circumscribed spaces, a

mould identical in composition with that which had been last removed. In the patch of mould lying at the northern edge of the floor, a fragment of glass was found, nearly four inches in diameter; being that part known commonly by the name of "the bulls' eye." It became a difficult question to account for the presence of the glass, and the two patches of clay so different from every other part of the floor. Mr. O'Reilly, who had very kindly aided in the inquiries made, directed attention to the fact that, though the greater part of the lime floor remained perfect, yet evident proofs were to be observed of the surface having been partially disturbed subsequent to its



Section, from Base to Door.



Plan, shewing Door and Base.

1/8 of an inch to a foot.

original formation, which it may be supposed was at the time of the construction of the tower.— It still remained impossible to account for this fact; but the difficulty was un-

expectedly solved, after the close of the proceedings, by a young man, Philip Roden, who, without being aware of our perplexity, informed us that the floor of the tower, just opposite the "Cock and Hen," had been formerly dug into by parties in search of money, who were induced to make the attempt in consequence of an old woman having dreamed that gold was concealed in that particular spot. It is most probable that (as generally occurs in such cases) the parties became alarmed, and did not pursue their inquiry; or that their curiosity was satisfied when they found no gold in the immediate locality of the birds, which seem to have made a deep impression

A. Common debris.
B. Red-coloured mould.

C. Solid clay floor, with coating of lime.
D. Here the skull was found.

E. Chips of sand-stone and traces of fire, &c.

on the old lady's brain. After passing through this floor so full of remains, a stratum was reached composed of chips of sand-stone, lime, sand, &c., ten inches in depth, being evidently formed during the construction of the lower part of the building: a few large bones and fragments of charcoal were also met with. Finally, the excavation was continued in that part where the glass had been found, to a depth of four feet, and the spot was reached where the foundation stones narrowed the interior: nothing more, however, was discovered. Large "spawls" or chips of sand-stone, exhibiting traces of fire, were observed, lying in a material similar to moist peat ashes; and some large field-stones were also turned up. Amongst the ashy material a few minute particles of burned bone, and a part of a nut-shell, were also picked up.

INISKEEN TOWER, COUNTY OF MONAGHAN.

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 "Those pointed spires that wound the ambient sky,  
 Inglorious change! shall in destruction lie."—*Prior*.  
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On the very borders of Ulster, but encroaching somewhat on Leinster, is found the parish of Iniskeen, [the "beautiful island,"] the chief part of which lies in the barony of Farney, County of Monaghan. It is distinguished by the *Four Masters* from other places of the same name in this country by the addition of *Deagha*, the name of its patron saint.

"The river Fane formerly divided here, and meeting again, lower down," says the Rev. G. H. Reade, in the *Transactions* of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, "thus made *Inniskeene*, (called by some 'pleasing island;' but, as it was used as a burying-ground, may mean the island of *keening* or mourning." Mr. Reade mentions a large moat or carn, composed of great stones and covered with earth, containing, very probably, a chamber and passage like the one at Dowth.

Mr. Shirley, in his very interesting account of the barony of Farney, gives the following notices of this parish. "The rectory was anciently appropriate to the abbey at Louth; its value, at the time of the suppression, was 40s. In the fourth of James I. it was found to be of no value, on account of the rebellion in the County of Monaghan; but formerly let for twelve *laganæ* of butter, and the sum of £2 annually. These tithes, like the moiety of those of Donaghmoyne and Magh Ross, which also formed part of the spiritual possessions of the Abbey of Louth, were restored to the church during the episcopate of Bishop Montgomery, between the years 1633 and 1639, as we have noticed before in the account of the parish of Donaghmoyne. The value of the vicarage of *Inniskeene*, in 1622, was £10; it was held by John Davison, M.A., who was also vicar of Killannev, and resided in this parish "in a house of his own building on temporall lands, for he hath no glebe." The church was ruinous. In 1634 the living was only worth £18 per annum."

"The Parish of Iniskeen, like that of Killannev, is partly in Monaghan and partly in the County of Louth. The church which, although it appears to be modern, is really a building of some antiquity, is in the former county, and contains nothing worthy of notice; the only remains of the

original architecture of the place (with the exception of the Round Tower) being a sculptured head in freestone, much defaced, which may be observed built into the wall of a vault in the eastern extremity of the church-yard."

Close to the church, and not far from the banks of the rapid river Fane, is a Round Tower, the only one in the barony. It is, however, one of the less interesting specimens of these remarkable buildings, having lost much of its original height. It is constructed of hammered whin-stone, the summit (of what remains of it) having been transformed into a modern belfry.* The door at the bottom, which Sir Charles Coote mentions in his *Survey of Monaghan* as remarkable, is undoubtedly modern; the walls are three feet in thickness. The same author gives notices of inscriptions on tombs, burial-places, and caves, in the neighbourhood. Mr. Reade says, in reference to this building:—"Of the Round Tower there remain only forty-two feet, but it must have been one of the highest when perfect, if built in the proportion of six diameters; as it is fifty-one feet in circumference, at four feet from the present surface, which has been raised many feet by interments: it is well and carefully built of very large stones, many of them nearly four feet long, and some eighteen inches deep; they are of the hard porphyritic trap and some other stones of igneous origin abounding in the district, and which are so well exhibited in the cuttings of the Dundalk and Enniskillen Railway alternating with the clay slate, in many spots altering the slates by their intense heat, and inclined with them at all angles up to the perpendicular."

"These large and very hard stones have been formed to the curve of the tower by a heavy pick, or some such instrument; the deep sharp marks of which are distinctly visible at each end of the stone, leaving the centre as in nature. The door, which is placed at the height of fourteen feet eight inches above the present surface, faces exactly the same point as the small old church, S.E. by S.; none of the original stones of the door-way remain, except the sill-flag, which is of very large size, passing through nearly the entire breadth of the wall; there are two shallow drills cut across its depth in front, as if to fit a ladder; its dimensions are four feet six inches long, twelve inches thick, and three feet six inches broad; on the left side of its surface there is also a shallow groove or drill cut along its whole breadth close to the jamb of the wall. The thickness of the wall, at the height of the door, is four feet, and the inside diameter of the tower, near the bottom, is eight feet seven inches at the top of the second floor."

"The tower is divided into three floors, by a projection of the building stones of from seven to five inches; the height of the first floor from the present bottom being fifteen feet, and the height of the second floor twelve feet six inches above that. About thirty years ago there was erected on the top an arch for a belfry, a most inappropriate and unsightly appendage. In order to get a firmer foundation for that purpose, about four feet of the original building was then taken down. Some glass beads of great thickness were found on the summit at that time. This belfry I caused to be removed a short time since, and have thereby probably saved the further dilapidation of this vene-

* Removed afterwards by Mr. Reade.

nable structure, as the upper part had bulged out considerably, from the weight of the arch and bell. The whole building was originally coated with cement both inside and out; a small portion of the outside remains, and it appears to be of a much harder nature than that within; it is composed of lime, sea sand, sea shells, and small quartz pebbles, and also contains *charcoal*, which would go far to identify its age with that of the small church before mentioned. One of the original stones, and only one, about one-third of the height, is of granite, which may have been a portion of a boulder from Slieve Gullion, or perhaps from Clermont Carn, about fourteen miles distant, as no granite is found in the neighbourhood. To my mind, this white stone, alone among its dark companions, gives evidence of great antiquity—at least that those who erected this tower were the first builders in stone and mortar in this locality, who naturally had appropriated the lone boulder of granite—a stone so much more easily wrought than the porphyritic whins of the country.”

Mr. Reade has the following reference to an inquiry made by Mr. Grattan:—“The sexton who was employed to dig *did* find a skeleton, without any flags or coffin, lying in the earth east and west under a thin stratum of mortar. Unfortunately Mr. Grattan was not present at the moment, and the skull was broken to pieces, so that nothing could be determined from its shape; the portion of the bones which I saw seemed too modern to bring conviction to my mind that they had lain there since the introduction of Christianity—say 1300 years—without coffin or protection from the moist clay around. Some years ago a road contractor made a great hole in the side of this tower to obtain material for the repairs of the bridge adjoining, but was fortunately prevented doing much mischief by Mr. Norman Steele. The breach has been repaired, and a door placed in it. There are no local traditions of any value connected with the tower: the common legend is, that it was built in one night by a woman with three aprons-full of stones, an apron-full for each story; and that next morning some passers by deriding her work, she leaped from the top into a pool in the river Fane, called ‘the church-pool,’ and was drowned. At the foot of the tower was found a very large stone, of porphyry, with a hole in the centre large enough to thrust the arm through, and which was, I believe, once used for superstitious purposes; in more modern times a pole was placed in the hole, up which the young country-folk used to climb at Easter for some trifling prize.”

“There are no windows whatever in the part remaining of this tower. About two-thirds of the way up, the builders seem to have exhausted their supply of large stones, and then, after a few courses of inferior materials, to have again procured larger and better. A narrow ledge, or cave-course, at the top, was placed there at the time of the erection of the belfry arch, which ill accords with the lichen-covered walls beneath. On some of the stones inside, the trickling of the rain-drops for long years has formed small marks not unlike *ogham* of a coarse kind.”

The following notices are found in the *Four Masters*:—

The age of Christ, 636, Maelduin, son of Ardh, was burned at Inis-caein. [This entry immediately follows the notice of a victory gained by Aenghus Liath, over the same individual] The *Annals of Ulster*, under the year 639, notice this battle, and the flight of the defeated chief; and in the succeeding year, 640, “Combustus Maelduin in insula Caini.” The burning does not seem to have been of a dead body.

The age of Christ, 766, Flann Ua Dachua, abbot of Inis-cain-Deagha, died.
 The age of Christ, 779 (*recte* 784) Flann, bishop, wise man, and Abbot of Inis-Caindeagha, died.
 The age of Christ, 853, Robhartach, Abbot of Iniscaindeagha, a scribe, died.
 The age of Christ, 871, Dughal, son of Maenach, abbot of Inis-Caindeagha, died.
 The age of Christ, 879, Duibhinsi, abbot of Inis-Caeindeagha, died.
 The age of Christ, 881, Conallan, son of Maelteimhin, abbot of Inis-Caindeagha, died.
 The age of Christ, 930, Fuacarta, abbot of Inis-Caindeagha, died.
 The age of Christ, 961, Cosgrach, son of Donnagan, distinguished bishop, and Airchinneach of Inis-Caeindeagha, died.
 The age of Christ, 1022, Lachtnan of Inis-caein, successor of Deagha, died, at Ard-Macha.
 The age of Christ, 1085, MacSoilligh, [MacSolly], Airchinneach of Inis-Caein-Deagha, died.
 The age of Christ 1178. Under this date the *Four Masters* record the devastation of Machaire Conaill, the plain in which Iniskeen stands, by John De Courcy and his foreigners.

Dr. Reeves, with his usual kind attention to the requests of other inquirers, has furnished the following notices, the result of his MS. researches respecting this place. They are given in the same manner as arranged by him:—

“*Monasterium de Inis-caoin*, c. 5. Est hodie tantum Ecclesia parochialis in finibus Origellæ; de qua vide plura in vita S. Dagæi et notis in eandem. *Colg. Acta Sanctor.* p. 348, a note 4. The note is on the following passage in the Life of S. Berachus (of Kilbarry,) Feb. 15:—

“Post hæc S. Berachus ad monasterium de Inis-caoin ad patrem suum Dagæum reversus ex farina ista miraculose confecta et postea in alimoniam magnæ multitudinis non sine miraculo adaucta hospites et monachos et multos insuper adventantes pauperes aliunde refecit.” *Cap. v., (ib. p. 345, a.)*

This refers to the early training of S. Berach, under Dagdus.

There is a short notice of S. Dagæus Episcopus, in Colgan, *Act. SS.* p. 374. (Feb. 19.)

But Aug. 18, is his *true* day in the Irish Calendar.

His Acts are printed by the Bollandists in the *Acta Sanctorum*, (Aug. 18) Augusti tom. iii., pp. 656-662, edited by Johannes Pinius; and are there taken from the *Codex Salmanticensis*, a vol. of Lives of Irish SS., now preserved in Brussels.

S. Dega.—He was born at Insull, in the region of Cianachta, now the baronies of Duleek in county Meath.

His descent was this

1. Niall of the ix. Hostages.
2. Eoghan a quo Cinel-Eoghain.
ob. 465 now Tyrone.
3. Dallan.
4. Laisre. Massan
5. Cairrell = Dechidu
6. S. Dega, S. Lassara,
 Mac Cairrell. his sister.

He was christened and brought up by S. Laisre, (or Molaissi) of Devenish.

Dayg means
 “magna flamma,” because
 “Igne Spiritus Sancti puer ille multum ardebit.”

He was a great artificer, and made bells, shrines, and all sorts of metallic work.

From Devenish he went to S. Comgall, of Bangor, for further instruction.

Thence to St. Ciaran, of Clonmacnois.

Thence he went to his own country, and founded Monasterium de Inyscain. S. Columba was there at the time, and blessed him and his church.

He had a monastery called Delenna.

“Hic Dagæus fuit faber tam in ferro quam in ære, et Scriba insignis. Fabricavit autem ecc. campanas, ecc. peda pastoralia, et scripsit ecc. libros Evangeliorum, fuitque primarius S. Kierani faber.”

Calend. Cassel., 18 Aug.

(Colg. Act., SS. p. 374.)

Being contemporary, or rather a little junior, to SS. Molaissi and Comgall, his age may be tolerably well guessed.”

The examination of the Round Tower which stands near the parish church of Iniskeen, in an ancient burying-ground, was made by Mr. Grattan, of Belfast, in presence of Mr. Reade, the clergyman of the parish, who had kindly consented. The date was 19th November, 1852. Mr. Reade, in his letter to the writer, had mentioned that the remains of jackdaws' nests and other rubbish were removed to the level of the modern door, which is on a line with the surface of the burying-ground. The workmen having disturbed some human bones in the earth beneath, and come to mortar, the operation was suspended to admit of the attendance of some parties interested in such inquiries. Mr. Grattan's notes state that the bones lay irregularly scattered through a mass of decomposed vegetable matter and fragments of coffins, evidently thrown in from the adjoining grave-yard. On removing this, a lime floor was discovered; but, owing to the reckless manner in which the person employed conducted the excavation, the human remains under this lost their greatest interest by the destruction of the skull, of which only fragments could be removed from the clay-heap into which they had been thrown by the sexton, during Mr. Grattan's temporary absence. Proofs, however, remained of a skeleton *in situ*, of which the thighs, legs, feet, pelvis, ribs, and spinal column, were successively uncovered. “Having, (Mr. Grattan reports) searched in vain for any fragments of the skull, beyond the two jaws which I myself dug up, I had the place cleared out where the skeleton lay. The recent body had been deposited at full length, in a position at right-angles with the modern door, that is, about N.N.W., by S.S.E.; the feet having been placed about E.N.E., against one of the stones of the foundation, which projected into the tower. The bones were in excellent preservation; and the entire length of the body, assuming the vertical depth of the skull to have been six or seven inches, may have been five feet nine inches, or five feet ten inches. The teeth are much worn, as seen in the fragments of the jaws preserved. Mr. Reade at first expressed doubts of a body having been introduced at the time of the tower's erection; but he modified this opinion on observing that the lime used on the floor was precisely similar to that employed in the building itself, and which had the peculiarity of being largely mixed with charcoal.

The skeleton was, it will be seen, found in circumstances very similar to those observed in other instances ; lying upon the soil at the very foundation, and *beneath a floor formed by a coating of lime or mortar*. It is to be regretted that a skull, which would have been a valuable addition to the collection of ancient crania already made, should thus have been lost by the stupidity of the workman employed."

TORY ISLAND, COUNTY OF DONEGAL.

In the notices given in the first volume of this Journal of the island of Tory, the Round Tower has been described with the other ecclesiastical buildings ; so that it will now be necessary to confine the remarks made to a few details of the result of the excavations made on the 7th and 8th of August, 1845.

A number of men were employed for two days making the excavation, of which the following brief notice may be given. The interior was filled with loose earthy matter, or rather granitic sand, such as is commonly found on the surface of the island, having stones intermixed. This continued to a considerable depth, and the first day was occupied in its removal. The stones had evidently formed part of the building, and had fallen when the tower received the injury, now visible, from lightning, according to the belief of the inhabitants, but more probably from the effect of water lodging in crevices, and gradually detaching a portion of the upper part, from which the mortar was washed out. The *debris* mentioned contained no human bones, and only a few vestiges of other animals, such as bones of sheep, &c., left from the food of the builders, or thrown in at a later period. Some fragments, it should also be mentioned, were observed of bones of whales.—About four feet six inches below the level of the door, a part was reached where a number of square holes was observed round the wall, apparently intended for the joists of a lower wooden floor or scaffold ; and the first offset or projection of the walls, being nearly on a level with the door, the breadth of the lintel about four inches not included, it follows that the included space between the two first floors did not exceed four feet two inches in height, and may have been a place of concealment for articles of value. The inner diameter, at the same part, was only seven feet ten inches. All the materials described having been thrown out, the *usual floor of lime* was discovered ; and, four or five inches beneath, a second floor, composed of large blocks of stone thrown in without order or regularity. A piece of brass, apparently the fragment of some culinary vessel, was found lying on the lime floor ; it was very thin, ragged, and much battered, as if torn or broken off by sheer force ; it was also greatly corroded. Under the lime floor, but above the stone pavement, a fragment of a sepulchral urn was found ; a portion of this having been broken in raising it, a reddish modern fracture was seen contrasted with a dark antique one, thus proving that it was imperfect at the period of the erection of the tower, and consequently had no immediate connection with the purposes for which that building was intended. On raising the pavement already noticed, the upper

portion of a quern was found, as well as several fragments of another. Having excavated to a depth of twelve feet six inches from the bottom of the door, a trench was sunk to a precisely similar depth without;—an experiment we had never previously had an opportunity of making; but neither within nor without were any vestiges of human remains discovered. It may be observed that, as in the case of Devenish, the lime floor was found, though not as a covering either of reliques or of a body interred in a recent state; though lime seems to have been only procurable by the tedious process of burning shells, and it is not easy to imagine why so much care was expended,—particularly when a wooden floor seems to have been laid above the one formed of lime.

RELATIVE ANTIQUITY OF STONE AND BRONZE WEAPONS.

BY THE REV. JAMES O'LAVERY.

To investigate the social position and civilization of the inhabitants of Ireland in pre-historic times is a work peculiarly suited to this Journal; but the writer who commences such a work must be no closet-antiquary, nor one who follows servilely in the wake of others. He must approach his subject without prejudice; for unfortunately it often happens, that Irish antiquaries have a pre-arranged theory, which they are determined to write out, despite of facts. To arrive at the truth, it is necessary to test the opinions and conclusions of those who have preceded us, by personal investigation, and by a patient and careful comparison of facts.

The science of Archæology is, to speak correctly, new in Ireland, and it is too soon perhaps to pronounce definitely on many subjects embraced by it; it is at present only possible to collect and arrange; and it would be a great movement in the right direction if the individual circumstances of every "find" were accurately published: then there would be a chance that the industrial and artistic history of Ireland might be rescued from the *debris* of the past.

The relative antiquity of the stone and bronze periods in Europe has long been a disputed question. Wilson, in his *Pre-Historic Annals of Scotland*, follows out a theory of the Danish archæologist, Thomsen, and divides the past time into—1st, the Stone Period; 2nd, the Bronze Period; 3rd, the Iron Period; and 4th, the Christian Period. This theory, at first sight, seems very plausible; but it is inconsistent with the account given in Genesis, where we find it stated that Tubal Cain "was a hammerer and artificer in every work of brass and iron," at a period long antecedent to our "Pre-historic times." Indeed it would seem that we place too much reliance on our theories of the gradual development of the arts; in good truth, if they were correct, we must suppose Noë and his sons to have been mere savages; and then the most extended scheme of chronology would be insufficient to educate man to rear the pyramids of Egypt, or to decorate the sculptured palaces of Assyria.